

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3782
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEC FOR BRUSSELS

E.O. N/A
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, IT, EEC
SUBJECT: TEXTILE CUSTOMS VALUATION AND GOI AUTOMATIC IMPORT
LICENSING SYSTEM

REF: A. STATE 154643, B. BRUSSELS 12095, C. ROME 8854

1. EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(MFA) CONVEYING CONCERNS RE ITALIAN CUSTOMS VALUATION
PRACTICES UNDER AUTOMATIC IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM
(AIL), AS REQUESTED REFTEL A. MFA OFFICIAL HAD NO
COMMENT SINCE OBVIOUSLY WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH TECHNICAL
ASPECTS OF PROBLEM, BUT PROMISED TAKE UP MATTER WITH
CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MINFIN).
EMBOFF ALSO APPRISED DEL GIZZO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL
CUSTOMS, MINFIN, OF OUR CONCERNS. HE PREFERRED NOT TO MAKE
REJOINDER AT THIS STAGE, SAYING HE HAS MATTER UNDER STUDY.

2. REFTEL C CITED COMPLAINTS OF IMPORTERS RE TWO
POINTS CAUSING CONCERN, NAMELY, 1) PRESENCE OF ITALIAN
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TEXTILE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEE CHARGED
WITH ESTABLISHING DUTIABLE VALUE, AND 2) UPLIFTING
VALUES ON US-ORIGIN TEXTILES BY 10-30 PERCENT. HOWEVER,
WHEN EMBOFF SOUGHT MORE SPECIFICS AND EXAMPLES
FROM IMPORTERS, FREIGHT FORWARDERS, AND ASSOCIATION
OF FREIGHT FORWARDERS, THESE SOURCES WERE RELUCTANT
TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS COMPLAINANTS, AND SAID THAT

PROBLEM HAS BECOME LESS ACUTE WITH RESPECT TO US ORIGIN
IMPORTS FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. SINCE TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN ORIGINAL COMPLAINTS
REPORTED, IMPORTERS HAVE HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS. SITUATION HAS IMPROVED
BOTH IN REGARD TO INCIDENCE OF CASES AS WELL AS EXTENT
OF OVER-VALUATION. WHEN PROBLEM OCCURS, OVER-VALUATION
HAS DECLINED TO ABOUT 10-12 PERCENT WHICH IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED
BY IMPORTERS RATHER THAN INCURRING FURTHER DELAYS AND
COMPLICATIONS.

B. IMPORTERS AND DEALERS HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO PLACE THEIR MEMBERS ON INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH
ESTABLISHED DUTIABLE VALUE, WHICH HAS MITIGATED INFLUENCE
OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY REPRS ON COMMITTEE.

3. CONSIDERING FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS, INDUSTRY SOURCES
UNWILLING TO CITE EXAMPLES BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY
HAVE FOUND "MODUS VIVENDI" WITH ITALIAN CUSTOMS.
NEVERTHELESS, WE CONVEYED CONCERNS AS A MATTER OF
PRINCIPLE, AND WE CONTINUE TO BE ALERT TO
SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF ABUSE IN THIS REGARD.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: e975a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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